



RTCA in Iowa

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Iowa offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Iowa will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Boone County Trails Planning** – The project goal is to develop a County-wide comprehensive trails plan that can be used for future trail development. (Location: Boone County, Iowa)
- **Prairie Creek Restoration Area** – The project goal is to maximize the natural and historic resources of the 273 acre property to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to have meaningful experiences outdoors. (Location: Jackson County, Iowa)
- **Quad County Trail Planning** – The project goal is to develop a comprehensive County-wide trails plan for these four counties to be used for future trail development. (Location: Jasper, Marion, Warren and Madison Counties, Iowa)
- **Winterset Trails Plan** – The project goal is to develop an in-city shared bike route along with a 3 mile trail connection to Cedar Lake. (Location: Winterset, Iowa)



Group collaboratively working on the Boone County Trails Plan

Recent Success Story

Prairie Creek Restoration – The Prairie Creek Restoration project has become a two year project with the National Park Service. In 2015, Jackson County Conservation partnered with the National Park Service to develop a concept development plan for a 275 acre property donated through a private donation. The National Park Service coordinated a landscape design class through Iowa State University to develop concept plans for the site. More than 30 students participated in groups design teams to develop their own versions of a masterplan. These plans included several types of highly creative amenities that could be incorporated into the site. The planning team presented the strategies to Jackson County Conservation and National Park Service managers. In 2016, these same students will work to design campgrounds, RV parking areas and parking areas that will be constructed as phase 1 of the project.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Iowa contact:

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